

To: WUE Subcommittee Participants  
From: Tom Gohring, WUE Element Program Manager  
Date: September 11, 2002  
Re: Update on Appropriate Measurement Definition

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**Background:**

The August 2000 Record of Decision commits CALFED to engage the public and work with the State Legislature to help develop a bill for that would require “appropriate” measurement of *all* water uses (surface and groundwater) in California. To develop a widely supported approach to measurement, CALFED has opted to move forward with this commitment in several discrete steps:

- Convene a multi-disciplinary, independent review panel to help define appropriate measurement as it relates to *agricultural* water use.
- Convene a separate public process to help define appropriate measurement as it relates to *urban and managed wetlands* water use.
- Based on the first two steps, develop a *comprehensive* definition of appropriate measurement that – prior to any legislative deliberations – is to be disseminated to and discussed with CALFED decision-making bodies, stakeholders and the public.

**Progress To-Date:**

The Water Use Efficiency Element has made significant progress in addressing the first task. The six-person Panel on Agricultural Water Measurement initiated deliberations in June 2001, met for a second time in October and – following additional technical work – is expected to reconvene for a third and final time in early 2003. The Panel’s work has been and will continue to be informed by extensive stakeholder involvement.

The WUE Element is now addressing the second, urban-focused task. As a first step, the WUE Element, with the assistance of CONCUR, has conducted interviews with 25 individuals representing a cross-section of urban water suppliers, CALFED agencies and partners, environmental and environmental justice organizations, business and citizen groups, and others. The purpose of the stakeholder interviews has been to: (1) identify the primary issues to be addressed in discussing urban water use measurement; and, (2) develop process recommendations for engaging this question further. Preliminary findings show respondents strongly support the formation of a stakeholder work group to assist the program manager in developing a definition of “appropriate measurement” related to urban water use.

**Next Steps for Urban Measurement:**

CALFED proposes convening an Urban Measurement Staff Work Group in early 2003. The Work Group would be expected to meet for two to three months. In order to ensure the Work Group can be convened in a timely manner and has the necessary background materials, WUE staff recommends pulling together in the near-term an informal stakeholder steering committee to assist it in:

- Assembling a technical team capable of developing credible background materials and supporting the Staff Work Group’s deliberations in a balanced fashion
- Providing input on the composition of the proposed Staff Work Group
- Acting as a sounding board for other preparatory decisions

Staff will update the WUE Subcommittee on these efforts at its next meeting.